

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

CIVIL NO. 17-1884 (PAM/HB)

In re EpiPen ERISA Litigation,

(This Document Applies to All Cases)

PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court, and in order to secure the just, speedy and inexpensive determination of this action, the following schedule will govern these proceedings unless modified pursuant to Local Rule 16.3.

This Pretrial Scheduling Order has been prepared with the input of counsel for the parties and the parties are required to diligently work to meet the deadlines. The parties are expected to work cooperatively throughout this litigation to narrow the issues in dispute, to use reasonable, good faith and proportional efforts to preserve, request, identify and produce relevant information and resolve discovery disputes, and to keep the Court timely informed of developments in the case that could significantly affect the case management schedule.¹

¹ Parties who agree by stipulation to seek a modification of this Scheduling Order may submit the stipulation with the proposed order to the Court without a motion and do not need to file a formal motion; however, the stipulation must meet the requirements of Local Rule 16.3.

PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS AND ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY

The parties will discuss a plan and protocol for any electronic discovery and any preservation issues before **December 15, 2018**, and will present any disputes to the Court by letter. The parties are advised that an e-Discovery Guide is available on the Court's website <http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov>.

INITIAL DISCLOSURES AND FACT DISCOVERY

1. The parties must make their initial disclosures under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) on or before **December 10, 2018**.
2. The parties will have substantially completed document production by **April 1, 2019**.
3. The parties must commence fact discovery procedures in time to be completed on or before **September 1, 2019**.
4. The parties shall take no more than **32** fact-discovery depositions.

EXPERT DISCOVERY

Disclosure of the identity of expert witnesses under Rule 26(a)(2)(A) and the full disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(2)(B), and production of the written report prepared and signed by the expert witness, must be made as follows:

1. Disclosure of the identities of expert witnesses under Rule 26(a)(2)(A) and the full disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(2)(B) (accompanied by the written report prepared and signed by the expert witness) and the full disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(2)(C), shall be made as follows:
 - a) Disclose and serve expert reports on or before **June 1, 2019**.
 - b) Disclose and serve rebuttal expert reports on or before **July 1, 2019**.
2. Expert depositions, shall be completed by **September 1, 2019**.
3. Expert witness discovery shall be completed by **October 1, 2019**.

NON-DISPOSITIVE MOTION DEADLINES

1. Except as otherwise specifically set forth this section, all motions that seek to amend the pleadings or to add parties must be filed and served on or before **February 1, 2019**.
2. The following schedule shall govern any motion for class certification:
 - a. Motion for Class Certification filed by **July 1, 2019**;
 - b. Opposition to Motion for Class Certification filed by **August 1, 2019**;
 - c. Reply in support of Motion for Class Certification filed by **September 1, 2019**;
 - d. Hearing on Motion for Class Certification to be held on or about **October 1, 2019**. *Any such hearing must be scheduled with the Court at the time the Motion is filed.*
3. Except as otherwise specifically set forth this section, all non-dispositive motions and supporting documents, including those that relate to fact and expert discovery, shall be filed and served on or before **October 15, 2019**.

DISCOVERY DISPUTES

Before moving for an order relating to discovery, the movant must request an informal conference with the Court. The purpose of this call is to explore narrowing the discovery dispute, confirm that informal dispute resolution is considered, and to discuss the most efficient way to brief disputed issues. Accordingly, before moving for an order relating to discovery, the movant must request an informal conference with the Court by submitting a **SHORT JOINT EMAIL** to chambers at

Magistrate_Bowbeer_Chambers@mnd.uscourts.gov stating:

- a) the discovery dispute;
- b) whether all parties agree to informal dispute resolution; and

- c) any other information that would be helpful to the parties and the Court in resolving the dispute in a just, speedy, and inexpensive way. No attachments are permitted. The Court will then schedule a conference call.

The informal conference is required to ensure that the dispute is presented and resolved consistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 1. It does not mean that the parties all concede to informal dispute resolution.

NON-DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS

If a non-dispositive motion is filed, it must comply with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota, Local Rules 7.1, and for discovery motions, also be in the form prescribed by Local Rule 37.1.

The “Meet and Confer” requirement must include attempts to meet and confer through personal contact, rather than solely through correspondence.

All non-dispositive motions must be scheduled for hearing by calling Judy Kirby, Courtroom Deputy to Magistrate Judge Bowbeer (651) 848-1900, prior to filing. Even if the parties agree that a motion can be submitted on the papers without oral argument, Ms. Kirby must be contacted to set the date for submission of the matter to the Court. The matter will be deemed submitted upon receipt of the last filing. The Court will determine whether to hold a hearing.

Ideally, if the parties are not able to resolve their dispute following their meet and confer and motion practice is necessary, the parties would jointly contact the Court to obtain a hearing date that works for both sides.

Once the moving party has secured a hearing date, it must promptly serve and file the notice of hearing informing all parties of the nature of the motion and the date, time and location of the hearing. The moving party may serve and file the motion and remaining motion papers in accordance with the dates prescribed by Local Rule 7.1, unless a different briefing schedule is set. A party may not call chambers and secure a hearing date or “hold” a hearing date without that party promptly serving and filing a notice of hearing.

Counsel may not notice additional motions for hearing on an already existing hearing date without first contacting the Court for permission.

Local Rule 37.1 governs the form of discovery motions. Counsel must adhere to the Rule; however, they should prepare their documents to offer a clear presentation of the discovery dispute in an efficient and effective way. The status of each dispute should be clear to the Court without having to cross-reference multiple exhibits. Your arguments should be precise. To the extent a burden is asserted, support for this position must be included. One suggested approach is set forth below.

Insert the actual discovery request
Insert the actual response and objections
Insert position after meet and confer to make clear any compromise positions offered by either side
Legal argument
Specific relief sought

The Court will give the parties permission to exceed the word limits for their memorandum if the additional words will help avoid the need to cross-reference multiple exhibits in order to understand the:

- requests at issue;
- responses and basis for objections;
- parties' positions after their meet and confer sessions;
- legal arguments; and
- specific relief sought.

If a party seeks to exceed the limits, they must obtain permission by filing and serving a letter pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(f)(1)(D). The letter should reference this Scheduling Order.

INFORMAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Prior to initiating any non-dispositive motion, parties should consider whether the matter can be informally resolved without a formal non-dispositive motion. If an informal dispute resolution (“IDR”) process is used, there is no transcript recording of informal proceedings, including telephone conversations. The matter is not briefed and declaration and sworn affidavits are not filed. Therefore, all parties must be in agreement to participate informally before the Court will consider IDR. If there is no agreement to resolve a dispute through IDR, then the dispute must be presented to the Court through formal motion practice.

If the parties agree to pursue the IDR process, the parties must jointly contact chambers to schedule a telephone conference. The parties will be allowed to simultaneously electronically file a short letter, not to exceed three (3) pages in length, setting forth the issue to be resolved. If not otherwise specified by the Court, the letter submissions should be served and filed at least two (2) business days before the telephone conference.

If the parties wish to proceed with IDR in a manner other than that outlined above, the short letter must include a specific proposal for the Court to consider.

DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS

All dispositive motions shall be served and filed on or before **October 15, 2019**. Oppositions to any dispositive motions shall be filed by **December 1, 2019**, and replies in support of any dispositive motions shall be filed by **January 1, 2020**. All dispositive motions shall be scheduled by contacting Jackie Phipps, Courtroom Deputy, 651-848-1156. Six to eight weeks advance notice is necessary to place a dispositive motion on the calendar.

HANDLING OF SEALED DOCUMENTS FILED IN CONNECTION WITH ALL MOTIONS

Counsel must be familiar with Local Rule 5.6 on filing documents under seal in civil cases, effective February 27, 2017, and any amendments to that Local Rule. If a joint motion regarding continued sealing is filed pursuant to LR 5.6, it must comply with the Local Rule. For example:

(A) Joint Motion's Contents. The joint motion must list by docket number each document filed under temporary seal in connection with the underlying motion and, for each such document:

- (i) briefly describe the document;
- (ii) explain why the parties agree that the document or information in the document should remain sealed or be unsealed or, if the parties disagree, briefly explain each party's position; and
- (iii) identify any nonparty who has designated the document or information in the document as confidential or proprietary.

(B) Party to File Joint Motion. Unless the parties agree or the magistrate judge orders otherwise, the party who filed the first document under temporary seal in connection with the underlying motion must file the joint motion.

The Advisory Comments to the Local Rule provide that the "joint motion must be filed using the Joint Motion Regarding Continued Sealing Form, which is available on the court's website." The current form includes a list of example explanations in a footnote. The designation of material as confidential or protected by any party pursuant to a protective order during the course of discovery as the sole basis for filing the material under seal is not a sufficient explanation to justify continued sealing.

See http://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/FORMS/Clerks_Office/Joint-Motion-Form.pdf

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

A settlement conference will take place on or after **March 1, 2020**. A separate Order for Settlement Conference will be issued.

The parties are expected to engage in mediation by **May 1, 2019**. The parties shall agree on a private mediator or, if unable to agree, each side shall submit the names of three mediators to the Court by **December 17, 2018**, and the Court will choose from that list.

TRIAL

This case will be ready for a bench trial on or about **June 1, 2020**. The anticipated length of trial is **four weeks**.

Date: December 10, 2018

s/ Paul A. Magnuson

Paul A. Magnuson
United States District Court Judge